(f) if so, the action taken on the Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. 83 of the 128 recommendations made in Part-ll of the Report of Railway Safety Review Committee-98 (Khanna Committee) have been accepted fully or partially by the Ministry of Railways. 36 recommendations are under scrutiny, whereas 9 recommendations could not be accepted for various reasons.

(d) Yes, Sir. The accidents involving derailments of 2402 Down Shramjeevi Express on 12.5.2002 at about 3.35 hrs on Lucknow Division and that of 2301 UP Rajdhani Express near Rafiganj on 9.9.2002 at about 22.39 hrs, have been attributed to 'sabotage' by the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Rail link for backward regions

434. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the backward districts in the country, especially Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga districts in Tamil Nadu, are not properly connected with rail routes; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's proposal to have rail links in all backward regions of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) There is a vast network of Railway lines throughout the Country covering backward and remote areas. Ramanathapuram and Siraganga are existing stations onTiruchchirappalli-Karaikudi-Manamadurai-Rameshwaram MG line. A large number of new lines and gauge conversion projects are also under progress on socioeconomic consideration for development of backward and remote areas. Details of ongoing projects are available in the Budget documents.